

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Liz Sturgill continues to receive dialysis treatments but has been experiencing sharp back pain. She had an epidural nerve block with steroids last week to treat the pain.

Jesse Riddle is experiencing weakness but was able to attend services last week.

Jesse Riddle's former brother-in-law in Elkhart, IN is suffering from cancer and has been turned over to hospice care.

Joni McConnell has asked for prayers for a close friend who has Parkinson's disease.

Two of Ken Roosa's cousins, Gary and Butchy Thurman, have been diagnosed with cancer.

Charlene Boggs fell at home, breaking some ribs but is recovering well.

Shirley Cook continues to recover well from her knee replacement surgery. Shirley will be traveling to Florida for the winter months, leaving on November 9th.

Shirley Cook's sister-in-law fell, broke a vertebra so her surgery has been delayed.

Shirley Cook's nephew in Illinois, Dale Pflum, is suffering from cancer.

Karen Sproles is doing better but continues to receive steroid injections in her knee and will have a nerve block after some open sores heal on her leg. Karen's son-in-law is in the hospital in Greenwood suffering from internal bleeding.

Judy Coley had a urinary tract procedure performed Thursday, Nov. 2nd

Shannon Jones, daughter of Linda and Randall, who suffers from cancer, is back home from the hospital and doing better.

Pray For Our Shut-ins:

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, John & Terry Richardson

Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru). See latest mission reports on the bulletin board in the back of the auditorium.

Guest Speaker:

Brother Bob is speaking at the Stop 11 lectureship this morning. In his absence we are thankful to have former Morgan St. member Tim Hale filling in during the Bible class and morning worship hours. There will be a service in song at 6 PM for the evening worship time.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be during our gospel meeting on Sunday, November 12th following the AM services. After the pitch-in we will conclude our gospel meeting with services beginning at 1:00 PM then dismiss for the day.

Men's Business Meeting:

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, December 6th at 5:00.

Gospel Meeting:

Our fall gospel meeting with brother Bill Boyd of the Rockliff Church of Christ in McMinnville, TN will be held November 10-12.

Radio Program:

Please remember to tune in every Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to WCBK 102.3 FM to hear our radio program which is entitled: "Preparing For Eternity".

God's Plan For Our Salvation

Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).

Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).

Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).

Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).

Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).

Faithful Christian Living, after the above five steps (I Peter 2:11, 12; Rev. 2:10).

November 5, 2023

MORGAN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

**540 E. Morgan Street
Martinsville, IN 46151
(765) 342-6027**



Schedule of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM

Evening Service - 6:00

Wednesday

Bible Study – 6:00 PM

Thursday

Ladies' Bible Study – 11:00 AM (March through October)

Radio Program:

"Preparing For Eternity"

Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

Website:

www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

THE BIRTH OF JESUS: FACT AND FALLACY

Roger D. Campbell

In order to live and die for sinners, “the Word became flesh” and dwelt among men (John 1:14). The Christ’s birth was a necessary part of the Godhead’s plan to save the lost. If you and I want to learn what God says about the birth of Jesus, then we need to read what the Bible says. When it comes to our Lord’s birth, we must separate **fact** from **fallacy**.

Fact: “Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea” (Matt. 2:1), just as the prophet Micah had prophesied (Micah 5:2).

Fallacy: Jesus was born in Jerusalem. That’s what the Book of Mormon says (Alma 7:10).

Fact: Mary was a virgin when she gave birth to Jesus (Matt. 1:24,25), but not afterwards (Matt. 13:55,56; Mark 6:3).

Fallacy: Mary remained a virgin for her entire life. That’s what Catholicism and other similar religious groups teach.

Fact: On the night Jesus was born, an angel of the Lord informed some shepherds in the region of Bethlehem that the Christ had been born. Those shepherds went with haste and found “the Babe lying in a manger” (Luke 2:16).

Fallacy: The wise men who visited the infant Jesus came to the manger at the same time the shepherds did. Modern-day “manger scenes” portray Joseph, Mary, shepherds, and wise men all together around baby Jesus in a manger. In truth, when the wise men/magi arrived where Jesus was, they went “into the house” (Matt. 2:11). Again, when the shepherds visited Him, He was in a manger; by the time the wise men came, He was in a house.

Fact: Wise men came from the East to see Jesus, bringing Him gifts. They gave Him three types of gifts: “gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Matt. 2:11).

Fallacy: The Bible says there were three wise men who visited Jesus after He was born. In truth, the Bible does not tell us how many wise men there were. “But, I have always been told there were three, and even in some of our songs, we sing that there were three.” The Bible does not say so. “But, every picture that you see or every movie about Jesus’ birth always shows three wise men.” That may be the case, yet the Bible does not tell us there were three. The Bible says that wise “men” came — “men” is plural, meaning there were at least two. It is possible that there were three, but it is also possible that there were two or ten or more. Since the Bible does not say how many wise men, no human has the right to declare there were three. People need to stop saying and teaching things they cannot prove. Someone says, “But there were three gifts.” Which proves what? It certainly does not prove

how many gift-givers there were. A loving son might give his mother two different gifts on her birthday — that would be two gifts from only one giver, right? Here is a Bible example to compare: Jacob sent ten sons to carry six or seven different types of presents to Joseph in Egypt (Gen. 43:11). So, the number of givers is not always the same as the number of gifts given.

Fact: Jesus was born “in the days of Herod the king” (Matt. 2:1) and when Augustus was emperor of the Roman Empire (Luke 2:1). Biblically speaking, it is also true that He was born “when the fullness of the time had come” (Gal. 4:4).

Fallacy: The Bible gives the specific month and day of Jesus’ birth. What a surprise it is for some people when they learn the truth that nowhere does the Bible record in which month our Lord was born. “Come on, everyone knows that Jesus was born on the 25th of December.” No, my friend, not everyone knows that. In fact, no one knows such a thing — it cannot be proven. There is not a single Bible verse which records either the month or the day of the month when Jesus was born. Thus, men ought to stop speculating and misleading people by declaring the 25th of December to be “Jesus’ birthday.” God’s word says no such thing.

Fact: The first-century Christians worshipped on the first day of every week, and in the process, took the Lord’s Supper as a memorial to the death of Jesus (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-26). There is no Bible record, however, of any early saints carrying out a celebration of Jesus’ birth.

Fallacy: The Bible teaches that believers in Jesus should celebrate Christmas. The word “Christmas” is not in the Bible. The idea of God’s children designating a special day to celebrate the birth of His Son is not in the Bible. It is a man-made idea, making worship and service to God in vain (Mark 7:7; Matt. 15:8-9). The New Testament does not authorize a religious feast called “Christmas,” so those who respect the authority of the Bible will refrain from engaging in such (Matt. 28:20; Col. 3:17).

We must discern between fact and fallacy. Let us be content to stick with what the word of God says. Not just on this subject, but all subjects.